



The Arena



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Chapter 1 by Aaliyah Sherfuddin

Mom says that I was named after a really good friend of hers from her childhood. She then gets that distant look in her eyes, as if she just got struck by a sharp object. I don't know why she does that. That's not the only weird thing that has happened. Whenever she relates to the past, it's like she is trying to hid something from me and Cole. I ask Dad about it, but he shrugs me off and tells me to shoot some targets. Well, that's what I do. I shoot my arrow at the targets with all my anger I have towards my parents for being so stubborn. What's so bad about their past?

"Rue! Come on! I don't want to be late!" Colemin shouted from the front cherry red door, creaking back and forth. I got my new birthday combat boots on and hastily grabbed my sleek black bow with silver arrows. My brother and I go to a combat class every day after school. He uses the wooden axe, since he is still too young to use a steel one. I'm supposed to use a wooden bow with rubber tips but I secretly replaced the rubber tips on my arrows for metal ones and painted them to look like rubber, I touched my arrow's tip gently, making sure the paint dried. I then rush out to meet my trainer, Gwin.

"Hi guys! How's your day! Did you guys get to practice?"

"Yeah, we did!"

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"Great! Well today we are going to practice our skills you have learned so far. Come on, v

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I really liked Gwin. She was young and had a lot of spunk in her, yet she was old and wise. My brother and I darted after her.

"Here it is!"

We arrived at a lush forest which had a damp muddy floor. It felt humid but you could feel cold mist falling from the treetops. I wandered around in wonder when Gwin suddenly pulled me back.

"Woah, don't wander off! This forest is 200 miles thick! You don't want to get lost in here! Okay, listen both of you. I'm going to put a GPS on each of you so I won't lose you. Kapish?"

"Kaposh" We both answered as she pinned a penny sized tracker on us. I was green and had a small light blinking on it.

"Okay, now you guys can roam around a little bit. After all, you can't get that far in 2 hours. But, I'm giving you a challenge. I want you to hunt down at least 5 animals and get a kill on all of them. I'll come and find you after the 3 hours. See ya!"

She darted out of the forest swiftly through the flower bushes. Colemin gave me a competitive glance and raced off to find an animal. I wanted to appreciate nature for a bit and then hunt, since I secretly came to this forest days ago to target practice. I strolled down the sunshine lit dirtway. I arrived at a waterfall. It was beautiful. I walked closer to the pool of water, took off my boots, and waded in the water. I looked up to see a small object floating in the water. It was coming toward me, so I waited until it was close enough to reach. I picked the object up. It wasn't really an object, it was a piece of cloth dyed black and red??? There was a tag on it.

PROPERTY OF THE CAPITOL - USE : HUNGER GAMES DISTRICT 12

The Hunger Games? THIS forest was part of that? I felt scared and terrified, knowing the dangers of what happens in the Hunger Games.

The Hunger Games is a game the former communist group the Capitol made. The game was

that 24 tributes from the 12 districts would be chosen by a reaping and would have to fight each other to the death. I learned that the Capitol added some monsters into the arena every minute and got me. OR COLEMIN!!!! I needed to find a way to escape. I followed the direction Colemin went. I then tripped over something. I looked back to see a metal panel pushed down.

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Only I could have pushed that down! I got up quickly and continued running, since I didn't want some monster to pop up and eat me up alive.

I think I ran for about 10 minutes screaming Colemin's name before I got electrocuted. It felt like a wall, but you could see through it. The ARENA was activated when I stepped on that panel. That means I am stuck. I didn't know how far the arena went, but I hoped it went far to the point where Colemin is outside of the arena, safe. I also hoped that it was far enough that I could go to my house without bumping into the Arena's edge. How do I get out of here?

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Potion, Monsters fighting Rue, Mother = Katniss Father = Peeta

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